



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# Lewis & Clark Bicentennial

## Lower Missouri River



### A Guide to Recreation & Visitor Safety



## Up the Missouri...

June 10, 1804: The Expedition proceeded 10 miles this day. They passed a part of the river where the banks were falling in taking large cottonwood trees with them. They passed the two Chariton Rivers and noted their mouths come together (until the present day). Clark provides a good description of a Missouri prairie.



Capt. Meriwether Lewis - Full Dress 1802 Infantry Officer's Uniform  
Painting by © 1988 Andrew Newman

...These Prairies are not fertile like those, on a number of those E. of the Mississippi. Void of every thing except grass, they abound with Head Grapes & a wild plant of a Superior quality, called the Oregon Plant... I saw great numbers of Deer in the Prairies, the evening is cloudy, our party in high spirits... Clark

June 11, 1804: As the wind was not favorable for traveling upstream, the Expedition remained at its campsite. They used the time to dry out wet articles, examine their provisions, and clean their weapons. They also jerked the mouth of two deer and two bears that had been killed in the prairie. The men were very lively "Dancing & Singing &c."

June 12, 1804: The Expedition made 9 miles this day. They met two rafts returning from the Sioux Nation and prevailed upon one of the voyagers to accompany the expedition upriver. The man, Pierre Dorian, had been with the Sioux for 20 years & was thought to have great influence with them. The Captains hoped to convince some of the Sioux Chiefs to return for a visit with the President of the United States.

June 13, 1804: The Expedition made 9 miles this day until camping at the mouth of the Grand River. They took lunar observations and noted the countryside -

...below its mouth is a beautiful Plain of bottom land: the hills rise to 1 1/2 a mile back... Clark

June 14, 1804: The Expedition made 8 miles. Clark records the following account of a pond explored by George Desruelland:

...Passed a Small Lake in which there was many Deer finding he heard in this Pond a Snake making Grashopper Noises like a turkey, he fired his gun & in the noise was increased, he has heard the Indians Mention This Species of Snake... Clark

## Boating & Barges

It is not necessary to get off the river because a barge is approaching. You should move toward the left channel shore (the inside of a bend) and be alert for rock dikes which are located there. Move as far away from the barge as possible and position the bow of your boat perpendicular to the wake. Never turn your boat broadside to the wake created by barges and tugs, they can easily swamp a small boat. Remember, barges have the right-of-way.

Pilots of low boats have a blind spot in front of their vessels and it could take a barge and tow up to a 1 1/2 mile to stop. These barges also create extreme turbulence up to 1/2 mile behind the tow. The strong wake may lift your boat onto the rocks, dikes or other hazards. Hydraulic generated by barges can suck under objects including smaller craft so it's best to give them a wide berth. Playing games with this kind of vessel can result in serious injury or even death.

Permits are required for regatta and special events on the river. The U. S. Coast Guard (314-539-3091) or Missouri Water Patrol (573-271-3333) should be contacted to obtain these permits. Docking facilities require a Corps of Engineers permit.

June 15, 1804: The Expedition made 12 1/2 miles this day. Encountering strong currents and still browns, they were "compelled" to use their towpoth. They camped opposite the ancient villages of the Osage, about three miles below the ancient village of the Missourians.

June 16, 1804: The Expedition made 10 miles this day. They came to where their hunters were camped, having killed two bears and two deer. Clark noted passing where Ft. Orleans was identified on their map but he found no traces of any settlement. As dark they camped in a bad place

...the mosquitoes and Ticks are numerous & bad... Clark

June 17-18, 1804: The Expedition set out early and, after traveling about a mile, spent the rest of the day making oars and repairing their cable and tow rope. The hunters came in with a bear and two deer as well as a young horse they had found in the prairie. The mosquitoes remain troublesome. Two-thirds of the men have ulcers or boils and several have dysentery.

...The party is much afflicted with Boils and Several have the Dysentery, which I contribute to the water... Clark

## Boat Ramps & Public Land

River Access (Boat Ramps)	Permits (Camping)	River Mile	Owner	Stream
Bosworth	Y	N	City of Bosworth	Grand River
Brunswick	Y	Y	City of Brunswick	Grand River
Lewis Mill	Y	Y	MDC	Little Chariton River
Miami	Y	Y	MDC	Missouri River
Port of Waverly Park	Y	Y	City of Waverly	Missouri River
Rooster's Marina (opening 2004)	Y	N	Port of Waverly Public Use	Missouri River
Stump Island	Y	Y	City of Glasgow	Missouri River

Public Lands and Parks	Permits (Camping)	Ownership/Management
Cranberry Bend	N	USFWS
Grand Pass, Conservation Area	Y	USFWS
McKinney, Conservation Area	N	MDC
Stirling Price, Community Lake	N	MDC
Van Meter State Park	Y	MDC

## The Return...

September 17, 1806: The Expedition made only 30 miles this day encountering a dangerous river channel with many snags to navigate through. They eventually camped about 4 miles above the Grand River. This day they met a Capt. McClellan ascending the river to set up a trading establishment on the Platte River.

...this gentleman informed us that we had been long since given out by the people of the U. S. Generaly, and almost forgotten, the President of the U. States had yet hopes of us... Clark



Replica of the Keelboat on the Missouri

